

Bay Delta Conservation Plan

Requested Action: Requesting direction from the Council on how best to integrate with the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and related processes. Additional direction will also be needed to assess the criteria for acceptance of BDCP into the Delta Plan.

Background

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan, which is intended to serve as a combined Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan and serve as the basis for a single biological opinion, is scheduled for public release on Nov. 18, 2010. The BDCP is intended to provide for conservation of sensitive species and their habitat in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in a way that will protect and restore water supplies. Critical portions of the document are incomplete and there are significant concerns whether the document will allow for a meaningful public review prior to its adoption by the BDCP Steering Committee. After that, the document will be the basis for both an Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Study (EIR/EIS).

Key unresolved issues include: defined goals and objectives, defined project description, the monitoring and research plan, and the adaptive management program. These analyses may exist, but they have not been made available to staff. It is also unclear whether BDCP has addressed the criteria required for acceptance in the Delta Plan, as required by the Delta Reform Act of 2009.

Attached is the first report prepared by ARCADIS, the independent contractor hired to assist the Council in its responsibilities regarding the BDCP. Contractors will brief the Council and then engage in a discussion with Council on how best to proceed with resolving/ investigating issues with BDCP.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Report from Independent Consultant, ARCADIS
Attachment 2 – Informational Article: “Delaying the \$11 Billion Water Bond: What Does it Mean for the Delta?”
Attachment 3 – July 28, 2010, Correspondence from State and Federal Contractors Water Agency

Contact

Keith Coolidge
Acting Chief Deputy Executive Officer

Phone: (916) 445-4503